

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, CA, US

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON TRUDEAU VISIT TO US

FOLLOWING ARE KEY EXCERPTS FROM TORONTO GLOBE AND
MAIL EDITORIAL DECEMBER 3, TITLED AGENDA IN
WASHINGTON:

BEGIN TEXT

PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU AND UNITED STATES
PRESIDENT GERALD FORD WILL MEET IN WASHINGTON
TOMORROW, THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER SINCE MR. FORD
BECAME PRESIDENT. THEIR TIME TOGETHER WILL BE SHORT,
TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS AT MOST -- SCARCELY TIME FOR
MORE THAN THE RITUAL FORMALITIES. AND THERE IS NO
SHORTAGE OF CONSPICUOUS POLITICAL IRRITANTS --
BEEF QUOTAS, TRADE WITH EUROPE, OIL EXPORT CUTBACKS --
COMPETING FOR A PLACE ON THE AGENDA.

BUT MR. TRUDEAU AND MR. FORD SHOULD RESIST THE
PRESSURES THAT WOULD DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION FROM
THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM HANGING OVER BOTH COUNTRIES,
THAT OF INFLATION COMPOUNDED BY RECESSION. IT

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WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THEM TO AGREE ON ALL

POINTS, EITHER ON THE DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEM OR ON THE MEANS FOR SOLVING IT. BUT IF EITHER COUNTRY IS TO HAVE ANY SUCCESS IN ITS EFFORTS TO COPE WITH THESE ECONOMIC ILLS IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ACHIEVE, AT LEAST, A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S VIEWS AND ATTITUDES.

THE PROBLEM OF ATTACKING INFLATION HAS BEEN COMPLICATED IN BOTH COUNTRIES BY SAGGING ECONOMIC GROWTH. CANADA HAS NOW EXPERIENCED ITS SECOND SUCCESSIVE QUARTER WITHOUT REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH -- THE TECHNICAL THRESHOLD OF RECESSION - IN SPITE OF AN ANNUAL RATE OF PRICE INCREASE OF 15 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTERS OF 1974. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY SLIPPED BELOW THE THRESHOLD INTO RECESSION.

...

AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW MR. FORD AND MR. TRUDEAU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DRAMATIZE THEIR COMMITMENT TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES AS THE OVER-RIDING PRIORITY AMONG THEIR POLICIES. TO DEVOTE THE MEETING TO ANY LESSER ISSUES WOULD BE TO ABDICATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE A LEADERSHIP FOR WHICH THE NEED IS URGENT. END TEXT.
JOHNSON

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